he did not pay income-tax in relation to such income in any previous year and subsequently, in consequence of any retrospective amendment of law or as the case may be the decision of Supreme Court in his own case, which event has taken place after the end of any such previous year, in any assessment or re-assessment proceedings the advance tax paid by the assessee during the financial year immediately preceding the relevant assessment year is found to be less than the amount of advance tax payable on his current income the assessee is chargeable to interest under section 234B or section 234C and the Chief Commissioner or Director General is satisfied that this is a fit case of reduction or waiver of such interest.

(e) Where a return of income could not be filed by the assessee due to unavoidable circumstances and such return of income is filed voluntarily by the assessee or his legal heirs without detection by the assessing officer.

3. The Chief Commissioner of Income-tax/Director-General of Income-tax may order the waiver or reduction of interest under section 234A, 234B, and 234C under this order with reference to the assessment year 1989-90 or any subsequent assessment year but shall not so reduce or waiver penal interest in those cases where waiver or reduction of such interest has been rejected in the past on the merits of the case. If any petition in the past has been rejected because the Board had not issued this direction earlier, these may be reconsidered and decided in accordance with this order.

Sd/-

(Y.P. Vashishat)
Under Secretary
Central Board of Direct Taxes

Copy to :

1. All Chief Commissioner/Director-General of Income-tax
2. All Directors of Income tax.
3. C&AG of India (40 Copies)
4. Joint Secretary & Legal Adviser, Ministry of Law, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
5. Bulletin Section, Directorate of Income tax (RSP&PR), New Delhi

Sd/-

(Y.P. Vashishat)
Under Secretary
Central Board of Direct Taxes

India's Share in World Trade With WTO Agreement

1176. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has increased its share of world trade and improved its world ranking both as an exporter and as an importer according to recent provisional world trade organisation data;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to improve its position during the next two or three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). According to available WTO statistics, India's share and ranking as exporter and importer in world merchandise trade during 1994 and 1995 improved as follows :

	%Share		Rank	
	1994	1995	1994	1995
Exporter	0.6	0.6	32	31
Importer	0.6	0.7	29	28

(c) Increased exports would improve India's share in world trade and its rank as exporter. Therefore, export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government through policy and promotional schemes. These includes implication of export import procedures, improving efficiency & competiveness, focusing on quality and technology upgradation and efforts to actively involve the State Governments in export promotion. Export promotion is a continuing activity based on an interaction with industry, trade and other export promotional institutions.

Proposal From Foreign Investors

1177. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of proposals from the foreign investors are pending before the Foreign Investment Promotion Board,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Board to take decision on those proposals;

(d) the total number of projects for Foreign Investment cleared by the FIPB during the last three years and the actual investment made/materialised; and

(e) the total number of approved projects which have yet to be started or materialised?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Total of 424 proposals are pending from the Foreign Investors for consideration of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board.

(c) In order to provide expeditious clearance of Foreign Investment proposals, as also to have a transparent effective & investor-friendly single window clearance, Govt. have reconstituted the FIPB. The recommendation of the FIPB in respect of the project-proposals each involving a total investment of Rs. 600 crores of less would now be considered and approved by the Industry Minister. The FIPB was reconstituted on 10.7.96 and has had two meetings since then on 12th and 13th July, 96. The Govt. has approved 84 pending cases on 16.7.96.

(d) Foreign Investment Promotion Board have cleared 2103 projects for foreign investment during the last three years i.e. 1994, 1995 & 1996 involving a total investment of Rs.550.4 billions.

(e) Such information is not centrally maintained.

[Translation]

Private Banks in Maharashtra

1178. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of private banks functioning in Maharashtra location-wise;

(b) the details of the pending proposals for opening private banks in the state, and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken thereon and the criteria being followed in granting such approval?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that there are 8 private sector banks having their registered head offices in Maharashtra and 19 other private sector banks are having their branches in Maharashtra. Details of these banks are given in Statement-I and Statement-II, enclosed.

(b) and (c) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the following applications were pending as on 30th June, 1996 for opening private sector banks in the State of Maharashtra.

S No.	Name of the Promoter	Proposed Head Office at
1	2	3
1.	Jain Group of Industries	Jalgaon
2.	Indian Seamless Financial Corporation Ltd.	Ahmednagar
3.	Hathway Investments (P) Ltd.	Nasik
4.	Shri Aziz Lalani	Aurangabad
5.	KJMC Financial Services Ltd.	Aurangabad

In January, 1993, RBI had issued detailed guidelines relating to entry of new private sector banks which are briefly given below :

(i) They sub-serve the underlying goals of financial sector reforms which are to pride competitive, efficient and low cost financial in intermediation services for the society at large.

(ii) They are financially viable.

(iii) They should result in upgradation of technology in the banking sector.

(iv) They should avoid the shortcomings such as unfair pre-emption and concentration of credit, monopolisation of economic power, cross holding with industrial groups etc. which beset the private sector banks prior to nationalisation.

(v) Freedom of entry in the banking sector has to be managed carefully and judiciously.

(vi) The initial paid-up capital of the new bank should not be less than Rs. 100 crores. The promoters' contribution should be at least 40% and the remaining 60% should be offered to the public within one year of operation or such time as permitted by RBI.

RBI has reported that since the above applications are at various stages of processing including verification of credibility antecedents, track record etc. of the promoters, it is not possible to indicate a time frame with' which final decision can be taken.

STATEMENT-I

Private Sector Banks Whose Registered Head Offices Are Located in Maharashtra

S.No.	Name of the Bank	Head Office
1.	The Development Credit Bank Ltd.	Mumbai
2.	The Ratnakar Bank Ltd	Kolhapur
3.	The Sangli Bank Ltd.	Sangli
4.	The United Western Bank Ltd	Satara
5.	The Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad Ltd.	Kurundwad
6.	The Indus-Ind Bank Ltd.	Pune
7.	The H.D.F.C. Bank Ltd	Mumbai
8.	The SBI Commercial & International Bank Ltd	Mumbai